

Submitted: December 21, 2017
Approved: December 21, 2017

**MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING NO. 10-2017
Thursday, November 16, 2017**

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission convened
in the Blue Crab Conference Room on
November 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Rob Achtmeyer, Chair
Emily Correll
Matthew Goguen
Laurie Kawa
Anita Neal Powell

Present: Sheila Bashiri, Preservation Planner
Jim Wasilak, Chief of Zoning
Cindy Walters, Deputy City Attorney

I. AGENDA REVIEW WORKSESSION (Blue Crab Conference Room)

Chair Achtmeyer introduced the members and staff present, and welcomed Commissioner Kawa to the Commission. He noted that the agenda review worksession occurred and that no decisions were made. He also noted the testimony received regarding the courtesy review, and outlined the procedure for public testimony.

II. COMMITTEE / ORGANIZATION REPORTS (Mayor and Council Chamber)

- A. Peerless Rockville – Nancy Pickard, Executive Director, reported that 70 persons volunteered for Community Service Day, cleaning up Haiti Cemetery, and that it was very successful. More than 150 persons attended the 30th Annual Peerless Awards, and she then acknowledged the awardees. She reported on an upcoming presentation on December 14 at Glenview Mansion by Eileen McGuckian about her book Rockville, Portrait of a City.
- B. Lincoln Park Historical Foundation – No report.
- C. Public Comments/Open Forum – John Becker of 148-201 Monroe Street and chair of the Environment Commission addressed the Commission, recommending a change to the Zoning Ordinance requiring courtesy review of projects adjacent to historic district.
- D. HDC and Staff Comments – Commissioner Correll announced the new Montgomery History online oral history of African Americans in Montgomery County. Matthew Goguen reported that he attended the annual meeting of the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions (MAHDC) held at Washington Grove. Sheila Bashiri commended Peerless Rockville on the Peerless Awards, and stated that she also attended the MAHDC annual

meeting. She also informed the Board that she is now Vice President of the Heritage Montgomery Board of Directors.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 19, 2017

B. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL HDC2018-00875, Anh Dang – for approval to remove the shrub, pave the driveway and install a fence at 541 Beall Avenue.

Commissioner Correll moved, seconded by Commissioner Neal Powell, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0.

IV. COURTESY REVIEW

A. Courtesy Review HDC2018-00874, RST Development, LLC – for courtesy review of a new building adjacent to the Americana Centre Historic District

Jim Wasilak presented the staff report and recommendation, which was for approval.

The following individuals addressed the Commission: Nancy Pickard, Executive Director of Peerless Rockville; Janet Wilson, President of the Americana Centre Board of Directors; Nelson McDonald of Chevy Chase; Mark Salzburg of Potomac; Deb Stearn, 4 Monroe Street; Regina Teeter of Americana Centre; John Monahan, 4 Monroe Street, #809; Susan Azrin, 4 Monroe Street #1209; Peter Daniel Bird of Americana Centre; Jim Huizenga; Howard Pollock of Olney; Ramona Jason, 4 Monroe Street; Lisa Friedlander of Bethesda; Connie Pawloski, 122 Monroe Street; Lawrence Azrin, 4 Monroe Street #1209; Geoffrey Kidd of Americana Centre; Howard Huffman; Lana Stiner; Joyce McDonald of Chevy Chase; and Gail Eckles, 4 Monroe Street #509.

After receiving testimony, the Commission discussed the application and gave their opinion on the proposal individually. Commissioner Correll stated that there should be minimal effect on the historic district. Commissioner Goguen expressed concern about negative impacts on property values on those units that would be blocked, and about impacts on the Americana Centre building foundation, and that any potential damage be mitigated. Commissioner Kawa noted that site lines would be impacted, but that there was likely not a better solution. Commissioner Neal Powell expressed her support for the project. Chair Achtmeyer stated that he found the impact on the historic district to be minimal, and expressed overall support.

The Commission determined that a draft recommission would be circulated by Mr. Wasilak by email, and that commissioners could provide any edits directly to him, without debate. This would be accomplished by November 28, to be returned by December 4 so that it could be included in the Planning Commission brief book.

V. DISCUSSION

A. Old Business

- a. **Update of Draft Historic Preservation Text Amendment** – Jim Wasilak noted that, due to the Mayor and Council’s meeting schedule and full agendas, the text amendment is on hold but he expects that it will be on the agenda early in 2018. Staff is taking the opportunity to further review the draft. Chair Achtmeyer stated that the proposal raised by Mr. Becker should be incorporated into the Historic Preservation text amendment or considered separately at a future meeting for recommendation to the Mayor and Council.

B. New Business

- a. **HDC Chair Election in December** – Chair Achtmeyer reminded members that there will be an election for a new chair.
- b. **2018 HDC Meeting Calendar** –Chair Achtmeyer encouraged commissioners to consult their calendars so the HDC calendar may be adopted in December.

VI. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Achtmeyer adjourned the meeting at 10:17 p.m.